Refuges - Division of Natural Resources
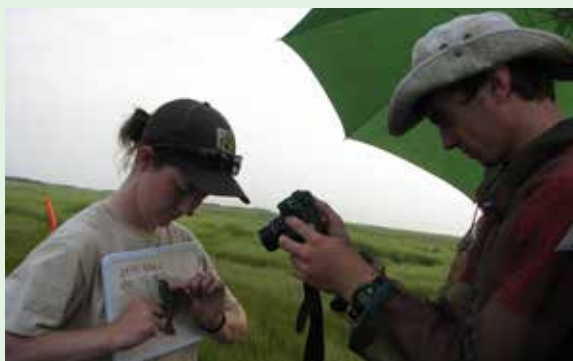## *Inventory & Monitoring Initiative Update*   *June 2013*

I&M 7-year Plan

The National Wildlife Refuge System's Inventory and Monitoring (I&M) initiative works with others to assess the status of refuge lands, waters, and biota, and supports achievement of conservation objectives at multiple spatial scales. The I&M seven-year plan is a mid-range planning tool that provides direction for this initiative and informs out-year budget discussions.

- Contains 19 focus areas, in priority order, encompassing the priority tasks identified in the 2010 I&M operational blueprint (e.g., water resources I&M).
- Each focus area is comprised of SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, results-oriented, and time-sensitive) objectives and tasks that provide annual targets.
- National and regional annual work plans step down from the seven-year plan.
- Approved by refuge leadership on 4/4/2013.
- Available at: https://fishnet.fws.doi.net/regions/9/nwrs/nrpc/IM/

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I&M Policy and Survey Protocol Handbook

The draft I&M policy explains how surveys conducted on refuges should be selected and tied to management priorities at the refuge and landscape scales. Surveys to be conducted are selected by refuge staff through an I&M plan process. The draft handbook seeks to ensure that the protocols used in conducting those surveys meet scientific standards and are appropriately reviewed.

- Service-wide informal review of draft policy and handbook by refuges and other programs during January to February 2013.
- Peer review of handbook by five external experts, facilitated through the Office of Science Advisor.
- National I&M staff have made revisions, will submit for DTS review by early July.
- Available at: https://fishnet.fws.doi.net/regions/9/nwrs/nrpc/IM/

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I&M Plan Pilot Workshop

An I&M plan (IMP) is the description, ranking, selection, and justification of surveys that a station intends to conduct, using assigned protocols. Pilot efforts are underway in several regions, including Region 5, to develop IMPs at selected refuges to implement the process. Feedback received from refuge staffs will be used to evaluate and improve the IMP development process.

- IMP workshop held at Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge in March 2013.
- Included the refuge manager, assistant refuge manager, refuge biologists, Division of Natural Resources (DNR) staff and a staff member from the national I&M office in Fort Collins.
- Built on previous work done by refuge staff on their Part 1s (original draft policy).
- Completed ranking process and related tasks in three days.
- RHC Biologist Kate O'Brien is currently working on their IMP.
- Next steps: Complete pilot IMP; work with other refuges to identify implementation timeline for their IMPs.

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Planning and Review of Inventory and Monitoring on Refuges (PRIMR)

PRIMR is an online application designed to document and catalog legacy, on going, and new surveys, and will be used in conjunction with development of IMPs. Once fully populated, PRIMR will allow us to identify common surveys being conducted across regions and landscapes to inform development of standardized protocols.

- Available at: https://ecos.fws.gov/primr/
- Migrated a core set of I&M Part 1 plan data fields for 60 refuges.
- PRIMR database will require updating: not all fields were migrated (e.g., text boxes), new fields added.
- Training webinars TBA.
- Training videos available at: https://fishnet.fws.doi.net/regions/9/nwrs/nrpc/IM/dm/GuidanceHelp
- DNR staff will solicit feedback from refuge staffs to identify their needs related to PRIMR.

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North Pool from Dike near Gauge looking S. W.

PRR - 33 - 1/25/52   5.26'

Fish and Wildlife Service Catalog (ServCat)

The Service Catalog, or ServCat, is a centralized web application for storing historically important and management relevant documents (i.e. reports, management plans, geospatial data, and survey protocols). ServCat enables employees to discover information between programs, regions, and refuges, which promotes collaboration and minimizes redundancy across the Service.

- Available at: https://ecos.fws.gov/ServCat/
- In November 2011, over 400 documents were uploaded into ServCat during a weeklong pilot effort at Parker River National Wildlife Refuge.
- Nationally, refuge narrative reports are the highest priority documents for entry into ServCat. National I&M is entering narratives that are located at the National Archives. Regions are focusing efforts on narratives not located in the Archives.
- Final comprehensive conservation plans and most final habitat management plans are already in ServCat.
- DNR staff will be soliciting feedback from refuges in order to develop a ServCat implementation strategy for the region.

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Other National I&M Database Efforts

ECOS ESA Species Update
- All Region 5 refuges provided updates on ESA species occurrence on their lands.
- Ten ESA species were reported as "current" by 20 refuges that were not within the existing TESS range map.
- Database is closed this fiscal year but will be available again for editing next fiscal year.

Avian Knowledge Network (AKN)
- National I&M bird monitoring team members include Refuges, Migratory Birds, other federal agencies and partners.
- Team is pursuing a contract this fiscal year with Point Reyes Bird Observatory to transfer the Point Count database into AKN (http://www.avianknowledge.net/content/about) and to develop the associated web user interface and tools (analysis and reporting).
- USGS will no longer maintain the Point Count database (landbird and marshbird data); refuge staff can still upload data there during the interim until notified otherwise.

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